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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6985

BILL NUMBER: SB 350

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 6, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Student Assessment.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Dillon

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Education to develop a ten-year plan for student diagnostic and summative achievement assessment before January 1, 2007, with the first of the new assessments to be administered in September 2007.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Diagnostic and Summative Achievement Assessments:* The Department of Education is required to develop a ten-year plan to assist teachers to diagnose educational needs of students in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The plan would have to include online assessments for various uses: intra-year diagnostic assessments, end-of-the-school-year assessments, end-of-course assessments, a new graduation examination, and grade-level written exams.

The bill requires the Department, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Attorney General to develop a long-term contract before February 1, 2007. Initial specifications of the contract must require a pilot diagnostic assessment for September 2007 with annual assessments beginning in September 2008.

The Department estimates the start-up cost of a pilot diagnostic assessment to be \$7.5 M over a period of three years. Estimated costs for the development of the other assessments is currently unknown.

New Graduate Examination, Written Essay Examination: Included in the ten-year plan would be the development of a new graduate examination and written essay examinations to supplement ISTEP. The new GQE would have to be ready for the school year 2011-2012 graduating class. The cost to develop a new GQE

and a written essay examination is currently indeterminable. The bill specifies that the new examinations would be available for online use, which could mitigate grading costs and timing of results associated with paper/pencil examinations.

The additional tests proposed by the bill, except the new GQE, would be addition to the ISTEP examination. The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill would depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education; Office of Management and Budget; Attorney General.

Local Agencies Affected: Schools.

Information Sources: Wes Bruce, Department of Education, 232-9050.

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